



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form 2015 Resubmission

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) section of the VMLRP web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Raleigh, Fayette, Wyoming, McDowell, Logan & Mingo Counties, West Virginia
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area
(or Location of Position if Type III): Interstate 64 & Interstate 77 near Beckley, WV
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: ☐ Moderate Priority ☒ High Priority ☐ Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

☐ **Type I Shortage: Private Practice**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

☒ **Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☒ Beef Cattle
☒ Dairy Cattle
☒ Swine
☒ Poultry
☒ Small Ruminant
☒ Other: No local veterinary service
available for the majority of the
population within this area

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

☐ **Type III Shortage: Public Practice** (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- ☐ Food Safety
☐ Public Health
☐ Epidemiology

☐ Other: _____

Please describe the **importance and objectives** of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This six county area in the southeastern part of West Virginia covers 3,177 square miles and is served by only three mixed animal practices. There are twelve other veterinarians concentrated in the northern portions of this area that are small animal only.

The service region referenced has a population of 231,389. Small family farms are the norm, but lack on farm veterinary service. Flatland resulting from mountain top removal has been converted into viable pasture by some entrepreneurs in the southern counties, currently supporting both cattle and horses, but no veterinary service is available. These southern entrepreneurs are often first generation farmers with little developed support from Extension Services. High schools in these counties have added agricultural classes and research facilities and begun FFA clubs. West Virginia *State* University Extension Services (based in the southern part of the state as opposed the more northern and separate West Virginia University Extension Services) is working with southern farmers to develop both crop and animal use lands. Development of agricultural resources in this area will provide much needed economic diversification and aid in natural resource recovery of an area that has relied on the mining of coal as its main standby. Support of these efforts would potentially change the course of these communities and the lives of their people.

Please describe the **activities** of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The veterinarian serving this area would ideally be able to make farm visits and maintain office hours on a limited but regular basis. He/she should have the ability to interact with first generation farmers and advise them on general safe farming practices. Existing small farms are mainly located in the northern part of this area and consist of cattle, sheep, goats, horses and backyard flock operations. First generation farms are mainly located in the southern reaches. The first priorities in a disease situation are identification and containment, both of which are much better served by a trained professional capable of educating clients as well as serving their medical needs.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Citizens of this area have not had a concerted effort to reestablish a large animal veterinary practice. We have numerous reports from farmers in this area of failed attempts to procure farm call service for livestock related incidents. Veterinary service is requested by farmers from practitioners in the Raleigh County area, but farm calls are refused due to distance from practice site and the economic impact on the practitioner, thus leaving more distant farmers without on farm assistance.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

USDA can help ensure there is a first line of defense against animal diseases across the United States by placing qualified veterinarians in areas where there is a critical need. This program will help support veterinary services for mixed and large animal veterinary practices in West Virginia, especially in the area of food animal medicine, which will reduce stress on producers and improve the health of the livestock industry. The production animal industry in West Virginia is only as strong as its weakest link. The safety of food animal production is incrementally increased by increasing the resources for veterinary health coverage in this area of the state.

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked on Page 1, please specify the percent time in the box below

(based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

30%

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week

Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week

Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

☒ By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.

☒ By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Jewell Plumley, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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Telephone Number: 304-558-2214
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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